



PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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WHITERIVER MAN SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR BURGLARIES DURING “KINISHBA” FIRE

PHOENIX, ARIZONA—The United States Attorney’s Office for the District of Arizona, announced that on January 20, 2004, Michael Baha, 12/23/1984, of Whiteriver, Az., was sentenced to 18 months in a federal prison, by United States District Judge Earl H. Carroll, in Phoenix, Arizona. He was ordered to pay \$891 in restitution and will be placed on 3 years of supervised release upon his release from prison. While on supervised release he will be monitored by the United States Adult Probation Office.

On or about July 14, 2003, the defendant, a member of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, was in the area known as the Jurassic Park housing area, on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation. The housing area was under an evacuation order due to the “Kinishba” fire. As a result, most of the residents had relocated to areas of safety. The defendant remained despite the evacuation order. The defendant entered the residential structure known as Jurassic Park House #17 with the intent to take property. Baha removed property including a video camera, several rifles, necklaces, and rings of Andrew LaCapa, also a member of the White Mountain Apache tribe.

Baha entered a plea of guilty on October 31, 2003 to one count of Residential Burglary.

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The investigation in this case was conducted by the White Mountain Apache Tribal Police Department and the Fort Apache Agency of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The prosecution was handled by Vincent Q. Kirby, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-03-843-PCT-EHC
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